

## The U-2 Affair:--Ripples in Nev Led to Diplomatic Tidal Wave

Missing Pilot's Wife Quietly Sent Home—His Family Alerted—Early Moves by Khrushchev.

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*This is the fifth installment of a condensation of the book "The U-2 Affair" which tells the story behind American espionage flights over the Soviet Union.*

### Chapter V.

#### "WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU'RE CAUGHT?"

BARBARA POWERS awoke in her trailer on the base at Incirlik at 5 a.m. Monday, May 2, to the sound of pounding on her front door. It was still dark and the mountains to the north were only dim shapes on the horizon.

Sleepily, she went to the door. Several of her husband's friends were there.

"Barbara, we have some bad news," one of the men said. "Gary is missing. We have search planes out but they haven't found him yet."

For the next few days she remained under heavy sedation, awaiting word of Gary's fate.

At the Municipal Palace in Istanbul, the NATO foreign ministers were meeting. (Secretary of State) Herter was at the conference table in the palace when Livingston Merchant, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, handed him a slip of paper. It referred simply to a missing plane; but because the slip of paper bore CIA markings, the Secretary of State immediately realized that a U-2 was down.

At Adana, Yusuf Ayhan, a local newsman, thought he was onto an interesting story. Ayhan regularly checked with the public information office at the Incirlik base for news. He had on this day picked up an interesting tip, and he was able to confirm it at the base.

Ayhan earned extra money as a stringer, or part-time correspondent for Yeni Istanbul (New Istanbul), and he thought the story he had stumbled on was good enough to file to Istanbul for the next day's paper.

"An American plane of the U-2 meteorological reconnaissance type, which is very good for its excellent and was based at Adana, was reported

Sunday," Ayhan wrote. "The U-2 plane had sent its last message on Sunday, when the pilot reported a breakdown of his oxygen equipment. No further news was received from the plane after that."

Not much, perhaps, but Adana was a slow news town, and Ayhan was confident that his file to the Istanbul paper would be printed, which also meant that he, Yusuf Ayhan, would be paid.

At 3:30 p.m., Harry Press's telephone rang.

Press, a bespectacled, cautious bureaucrat with a cherubic face, was in his office at 1512 H street one block from the White House.

He was chief, loads and structures division, NASA. He was also one of the four men at NASA who knew that the U-2 was photographing military targets in the Soviet Union under NASA cover.

This day, the caller was Maj. James Smith, at the Air Force Air weather service headquarters, Belleville, Ill. Maj. Smith was Press's regular contact with the Air Force. He told Press essentially the same cover story that Yusuf Ayhan had picked up in Adana several hours earlier.

Press known of the Sunday CIA meeting—which he did not—he might have deduced that the message he received had come from Washington to Adana, Wiesbaden, to Illinois, and then to him on H street. It was around the time that he was about to travel